

February, 5th 2008

Arkansas's Presidential Preferential Primary

Voter Guide

REGISTRATION

Citizens must complete an Arkansas Voter Registration Application by the **January 7, 2008** deadline to participate in this election. Click here to view and print off a copy of the application:

http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/elections_pdfs/voter/voter_reg_ap_ar.pdf

If you are already a registered Arkansas voter, you don't have to register again to vote; however, it is important to keep your voter registration information current. Click here to verify your information: www.voterview.org. If you see anything that needs to be updated, please contact your county clerk immediately. A listing of contact information for county clerks is available at www.arcounties.org/counties.

In 2007, the state legislature passed a law allowing for county-to-county transfer of voter registrations up to four days before the election. So, if you are a registered Arkansas voter and have recently moved to a new county in Arkansas, this provision will help ensure that you'll be able to vote at your new polling place. The deadline for transferring your voter registration from your former county of residence to your current one is **February 1st, 2008** for this election.

PARTY PREFERENCE

When filling out the voter registration application, you'll notice a box to list party affiliation. Listing this information is not required, but if you do choose to list a party, you are still free to vote in another party's primary election. That's because the Presidential Preferential Primary is an open primary election just like the statewide primary election on May 20th, 2008. An open primary is a preferential election in which voters do not have to be registered with a particular party in order to participate in that party's election.

BALLOT CHOICE

You do have to choose a party affiliation when going to vote at the polls or absentee in a preferential primary election, such as the one for president. The poll worker will need to know which party's ballot to give you. This doesn't mean you are now a member of that political party. It just means that you are voting in that party's primary election. Voters

will have a choice of three different ballots in this year's election: Democratic Party, Green Party, or Republican Party.

Below are the candidates certified to be on each party's ballot:

Democratic Party: Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Christopher J. Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis J. Kucinich, Barack Obama, and Bill Richardson.

Green Party: Jared A. Ball, Cynthia McKinney, Kent Mesplay, and Kat Swift.

Republican Party: Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, and Fred Thompson.

ABSENTEE VOTING

If you know you will be unavoidably absent from the polls on Election Day, which is February 5th, 2008, you may request an absentee ballot from your county clerk. Be sure to include your political party preference so that the clerk will know which party's ballot to send you. The clerk must receive your mailed absentee ballot request application by **January 29th, 2008**. Once the clerk mails out your ballot, you have to return the voted ballot back to the clerk by Election Day, which is **February 5th, 2008**.

EARLY VOTING

Early voting is always a good idea, but especially when winter weather could happen at any time. Each county provides at least one early voting location (usually the county courthouse), and some offer additional satellite locations. Please check with your county clerk to find the polling place most convenient for you. Early voting for this election will be available from **Tuesday, January 29th - Monday, February 4th, 2008** during regular business hours.

AT THE POLLS VOTING

The Presidential Preferential Primary Election occurs on **Tuesday, February 5th, 2008**. Polls are open statewide from **7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

First-time voters can find out where they will be voting at www.voterview.org.

More information on the voting process, including provisional voting and what to expect when voting, can be found at www.votenaturally.org.